

Reason for Closing: The proposals being reviewed include information of a proprietary or confidential nature, including technical information; financial data, such as salaries; and personal information concerning individuals associated with the proposals. These matters are exempt under 5 U.S.C. 552b(c), (4) and (6) of the Government in the Sunshine Act.

Dated: February 17, 1998.

M. Rebecca Winkler,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 98-4350 Filed 2-19-98; 8:45 am]

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NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Special Emphasis Panel in Electrical and Communications Systems; Notice of Meetings

This notice is being published in accord with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, as amended). During the period March 1 through March 31, 1998, the Special Emphasis Panel will be holding panel meetings to review and evaluate research proposals. The dates, contact person, and types of proposals are as follows:

Special Emphasis Panel in Electrical and Communications Systems (1196).

1. *Date:* March 9, 1998, Room 680.

Contact: Dr. Rajinder Khosla and Dr. Usha Varshney, Program Directors, Physical Foundations of Enabling Technologies (PFET), Division of Electrical and Communications Systems, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Room 675, Arlington, VA 22230. Telephone: (703) 306-1339.

Type of Proposal: Physical Foundations of Enabling Technologies (PFET).

2. *Date:* March 12 & 13, 1998, Room 1295.

Contact: Dr. Rajinder Khosla, Program Director, Physical Foundations of Enabling Technologies (PFET), Division of Electrical and Communications Systems, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Room 675, Arlington, VA 22230. Telephone: (703) 306-1339.

Type of Proposal: Physical Foundations of Enabling Technologies (PFET).

3. *Date:* March 12 & 13, 1998, Room 1120 & 680.

Contact: Dr. Usha Varshney, Program Director, Physical Foundations of Enabling Technologies (PFET), Division of Electrical and Communications Systems, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Room 675, Arlington, VA 22230. Telephone: (703) 306-1339.

Type of Proposal: Physical Foundations of Enabling Technologies (PFET).

4. *Date:* March 23 & 24, 1998, Room 680, 390, & 770.

Contact: Dr. Saifur Rahman, Program Director, Knowledge Modeling and Computational Intelligence (KMCI), Division of Electrical and Communications Systems, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson

Blvd., Room 675, Arlington, VA 22230.

Telephone: (703) 306-1339.

Type of Proposal: Knowledge Modeling and Computational Intelligence (KMCI).

Times: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day.

Place: National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA.

Type of Meetings: Closed.

Purpose of Meetings: To provide advice and recommendations concerning proposals submitted to NSF for financial support.

Agenda: To review and evaluate PFET & KMCI proposals submitted to the Division as part of the selection process for awards.

Reason for Closing: The proposals being reviewed include information of a proprietary or confidential nature, including technical information; financial data, such as salaries, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the proposals. These matters are exempt under 5 USC 552b(c) (4) and (6) of the Government in the Sunshine Act.

Dated: February 17, 1998.

M. Rebecca Winkler,

Committee Management Officer.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50-250 and 50-251]

Florida Power and Light Company, Turkey Point Unit 3 and Unit 4; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from certain requirements of its regulations to Florida Power and Light Company (the licensee), holder of Facility Operating Licenses Nos. DPR-31 and DPR-41 for operation of Turkey Point Units 3 and 4, respectively.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of Proposed Action

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application dated December 12, 1996, for exemption from certain requirements of Appendix R, "Fire Protection Program for Nuclear Power Facilities Operating Prior to January 1, 1979," for Turkey Point Units 3 and 4. Specifically, the licensee requests an exemption from the requirements of Appendix R, Subsection III.G.2.a, for raceway fire barriers in outdoor fire zones, excluding the Open Turbine Building.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The Thermo-Lag fire barriers installed at Turkey Point Units 3 and 4 were found to have a rating of 25-minutes, which does not meet the requirements

specified in Subsection III.G.2.a. The proposed exemptions are needed because compliance with the regulation would result in significant additional costs.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the proposed action involves features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR part 20.

The proposed action will not result in an increase in the probability or consequences of accidents or result in a change in occupational or offsite dose. Therefore, there are no radiological impacts associated with the proposed action.

The proposed action will not result in a change in nonradiological plant effluents and will have no other nonradiological environmental impact.

Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no environmental impacts associated with this action.

Alternative to the Proposed Action

As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action. Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action did not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statements related to operation of Turkey Point Units 3 and 4, dated July 1972.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, on February 11, 1998 the NRC staff consulted with the Florida State official, Mr. William Passetti of the State Office of Radiation Control, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

Finding of No Significant Impact

Based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated December 12, 1996, as